

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY-PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CITY-PARISH OF LAFAYETTE, STATE OF LOUISIANA, TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 25, 2003.

ATTENDANCE

COUNCIL: Jerry Trumps (Chair - District 6), Robert Castille (Vice Chair - District 2), Bobby Badeaux (District 1), Louis C. Benjamin, Jr. (District 4), Lenwood Broussard (District 5), Marc Mouton (District 7), Rob Stevenson (District 8), Randy Menard (District 9)

ABSENT: Chris Williams (District 3)

COUNCIL STAFF: Norma Dugas (Clerk of the Council), Veronica Williams (Assistant Clerk of the Council) and Anne Patin (Senior Administrative Assistant)

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF: Glenn Weber (CAO), Becky LaLumia (Associate CAO/Finance Management), Benny Soulier (Director of Administrative Services), Chief Ronald Boudreaux (Police Department), Chief Robert Benoit (Fire Department), Robert Benoit (Director of Planning, Zoning and Codes), Gerald Boudreaux (Director of Parks & Recreation), Terry Huval (Utilities Director), Tim Breaux (Director of Community Development), John Raines (Public Works Director), Steve Dupuis (Legal Counsel), Tony Tramel (Director of Transportation)

COMMENCEMENT

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(000) AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Call to order.

Chair Jerry Trumps called the Regular Council Meeting of March 25, 2003 to order.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(001) AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilmember Marc Mouton was called upon to deliver the invocation and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(008) The Chair then made the following announcements:

- Councilmember Chris Williams will not be in attendance due to an out of state trip.
- Reminded that April 5, 2003 is the drainage millage renewal.
- Reminded that the Regular Council Meetings in April will be April 8, April 22 and April 29 so that ordinances introduced on March 19th will have a full two-week layover before final adoption.
- A Community Development Liaison Briefing will be held Tuesday, April 1, 2003 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss CDBG funds.
- A Public Safety Liaison Briefing will be held Tuesday, April 15, 2003 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss the vicious dog ordinance.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(024) The Chair then recognized A. J. LeBlanc regarding the Louisiana Purchase. He announced a celebration at Acadian Village on April 30, 2003 to celebrate the purchase of Louisiana from France on April 30, 1803. He presented each Councilmember with a place mat showing each state and their respective flag that is located within the Louisiana Purchase.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(123) AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: **EXECUTIVE/PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

- a. Tony Tramel, Director of Traffic & Transportation, was recognized with a presentation on the Lafayette Urban Area Transportation Study – Roadside Origin/Destination Survey.

Tramel explained that LaDOTD has contracted with Neel-Schaeffer to assist the Lafayette MPO in updating long-range transportation plans. One element of this process is a roadside mail-back survey (a copy of the survey was presented to the Council). A free, mail back survey will be distributed on out-bound lanes only from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Vehicles will be counted. Flaggers, Law Enforcement Officers, signs and cones will be at each station to ensure safety and add credibility to the project. Emergency vehicles and congested traffic will be flushed through. The consulting firm will do tabulation of the results.

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL ADOPTION –ZONING

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(255) AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: O-051-2003 An ordinance of the Lafayette City-Parish Council amending the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance, Case No. Z2002-009 (TC) Sight-Proof Fence Text Change, so as to require additional screening for certain developments, motion to approve by Stevenson, seconded by Castille, and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Badeaux, Castille, Benjamin, Broussard, Trumps, Mouton, Stevenson, Menard

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Williams

RECUSED: None

Motion was unanimously approved.

Robert Benoit, Planning, Zoning & Codes Director, explained that this text change allows for a business to apply to the Board of Zoning Adjustment for additional fencing/ screening when they are raising the property two feet or more next to a residential lot. Broussard requested that Benoit consider an identical ordinance for property outside the City limits and an additional ordinance governing a business' parking lot lighting when located next to a resident. This situation can cause a day-light type situation in a resident's back yard at night. Benoit agreed that the City zoning ordinance could be amended and a stand-alone ordinance would provide relief in the Parish.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(365) AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: O-052-2003 An ordinance of the Lafayette City-Parish Council amending the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance, Case No. Z2003-002 (TC) Alternative Landscape Compliance Text Change, so as to clarify requirements, motion to approve by Mouton, seconded by Badeaux, and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Badeaux, Castille, Benjamin, Broussard, Trumps, Mouton, Stevenson, Menard

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Williams

RECUSED: None

Motion was unanimously approved.

Benoit explained that this ordinance allows for flexibility for small businesses. They can submit landscape plans, which can be approved by PZC, and not be required to use a landscape architect. Broussard agreed with the Alternative Landscape Compliance Text Change and requested that Benoit consider amending the landscape ordinance with reference to the ten (10) foot green area required for a business with one (1) acre or less. He suggested a five (5) foot green area.

With reference to Item 4, Benjamin requested that consideration be given to requiring businesses to put up a sight-proof fence in the rear of the property that is facing a street adjacent to a residential area.

REPORTS AND/OR DISCUSSION ITEMS

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(498) AGENDA ITEM NO. 6 Discussion

a. Update on the enforcement of the Noise Ordinance.

Benjamin reported that since the last report there have been 32 citations. 24 were sent to the City prosecutor for prosecution, 4 are civil waiting to pay their fines; 1 has paid the civil fine and 1 has filed for an administrative hearing. He then asked if these citations would be handled in traffic court under the proposed amendment.

Dupuis explained that within the next 30 days Legal would present a proposed amendment. The citations in question are under the existing ordinance.

The following individuals were recognized:

Patrick Brasseaux stated that he appreciated the fact that so many citations were being

handled; however, he still has a neighbor with 7 citations that have not been handled as yet. Upon receipt of a phone call from Tim Melancon, ATAC Manager, he was informed that an attorney had been assigned but was uncomfortable prosecuting under the current ordinance.

Upon questioning by Trumps, Dupuis explained that he was familiar with Mr. Brasseaux's complaint. Attorney John Bivins has been appointed to look at the issue as far as seven (7) citations and over several hundred complaints. It's a matter of proof to go into court and make it stick. It is not dormant.

b. Status report on herbicide spraying as it pertains to drainage.

Raines explained that contracts with VMSI and Louisiana Clearwater have been forwarded to the City-Parish President's office for execution. This is a joint effort to herbicide spray approximately 400 miles of earthen channels within the Parish. The companies have ordered the chemicals and work should begin the first week in April. A progress report detailing the amount of work will be sent to the President's office once a month and Raines will entertain comments or concerns at those times. Trumps requested that the number of feet/miles completed and the volume of herbicide used be included in the report. Mouton suggested that the report be given at the Public Works Liaison meeting so Councilmember Stevenson can share the report with the Council.

Castille asked how channels were chosen for herbicide spraying. Raines explained that it is a combination of channels that have been cleaned in the past that specifically serve public waters.

c. Update on the Camellia soundwall.

Raines reported that the project has been assigned to an engineering firm. A meeting will be scheduled with the firm to discuss the parameters of the project. Stevenson requested to be a part of the meeting with the firm. A topographical survey of the site is being done to identify those areas where there would be potential conflicts with trees, utility lines and/or man-made structures. Stevenson questioned if the soundwall project would begin immediately upon completion of the bridge. Raines explained that he doubted that but explained that it was an effort that has moved forward and the project will proceed as quickly as possible. There is no specific date for the completion of Camellia Bridge. Stevenson stated that he did not want this project to drag out forever. The Administration made a promise to the residents and the project needs to be completed.

Weber added that the Administration is committed to this project and will get it done as soon as possible.

Stevenson then stated that he sent an RFS to Public Works regarding the deplorable condition of Eastland between Camellia Drive and Mount Vernon and asked for a status. Raines explained that the long-term status is that once the bridge project is finished they will overlay or possibly reconstruct portions of Eastland. As for the interim period, everything has been done to make it useable and it is being monitored weekly. If a problem comes up, it will be taken care of immediately.

Trumps then reiterated that the soundwall project in his district must move forward. The project has been funded, the design is finished, the residents have signed all the easements required and now the project needs more funds. He stated he would like the matter resolved within the week so that a bid date could be set in April.

Benjamin inquired as to the rights of way along Pinhook Road between Clifford and Carmel Avenue. He suggested abandoning the rights of way and giving the property over to the adjacent property owners. This issue was referred to the Regular Council Meeting of April 29, 2003.

THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS WERE RECOGNIZED:

Carrie Baird asked 1) if the soundwall was going to be monitored by City-Parish Government for decayed wood and damage/breakage to the wall, and 2) when will bike trails be installed?

Raines explained that the bike trail is being incorporated into the greenbelt itself and will come with the next phase. The inspections of the soundwall would be an ongoing process. LCG will maintain responsibility for the soundwall.

- d. Discuss erosion problem on the property of Mr. Kirk Albert on Greenfield Drive.

Raines stated that the assistance of the NRCS has been sought for a solution. Public Works has committed to Mr. Albert and the Council that whatever the NRCS recommends, within reason, LCG would implement it immediately.

Benjamin then asked for the status of the erosion problem on the property of Mrs. Gloria Linton on Terry Drive (at Webb Coulee). Raines answered he would get the information to Benjamin as soon as possible.

- e. Status of Shenandoah Drainage Project

Menard asked that a copy of the minutes be sent to Mr. Brent Romero and then asked for a status on the project.

Raines explained that the Project Engineer is Randy Hebert and he has submitted revised construction plans. A Plan-in-hand meeting is scheduled with him next week. There are additional utility easements that must be acquired but are not problematic. The project should be ready for bid in July. Raines added that at Menard's request, the Public Works Department submitted an application for a Hazardous Mitigation Grant due to Hurricane Lili. LCG has received notice that Public Works will be awarded \$400,000; however, he has not received the official letter yet. These funds will assist in funding this project.

Menard requested that this issue be placed on the April 29, 2003 agenda for the Regular Meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

(TAPE 1)(SIDE B)(307) AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Comments from the public on other matters.

Mary Ann Ficaro addressed the Council regarding her request to participate in the contract negotiations for AIS and for an administrative hearing concerning AIS. She stated that she has tried to schedule a meeting with the City-Parish President and has tried to write or call various Councilmembers because she feels she has significant input on the issue. She then asked 1) if there was a "Control Services Committee" to study various contracts and, if so, who chairs this committee, 2) if the CAO reviewed the City-Parish President's correspondence before he received it, and 3) if the synopsis of the January Real Talk Meeting was completed.

Trumps responded that there was no committee of the Council except for the Professional Services Review Committee that is called when the Administration has a need for professional services. He further stated that he asked for a meeting with Mr. Comeaux last month on Ms. Ficaro's behalf. Weber explained to Ms. Ficaro that the Administration is not aware of any committee other than the Professional Services Review Committee, all letters addressed to Mr. Comeaux go directly to him and he responds, and the synopsis requested has been furnished to Councilmember Williams for review. With regard to the meeting with the City-Parish President, Weber explained that the Director of Traffic & Transportation is the delegated authority on transportation and, per a memo dated March 24, 2003 from Tramel, Ms. Ficaro's questions have been answered. The Administration supports Tramel's position on the issue. He advised that he would look into a meeting with the City-Parish President; however, the Administration would be hard pressed to change Tramel's recommendations.

Patrick Brasseaux announced his candidacy for District 3, however; the Chair explained to Brasseaux that Council Meetings could not be used for such announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

(TAPE 1)(SIDE B)(496) There being no further business to come before the Council, Chair Trumps declared the Regular Council Meeting adjourned.

NORMA A. DUGAS, CLERK
LAFAYETTE CITY-PARISH COUNCIL